

**SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING MINUTES, JULY 19, 2005**

UPDATE RE: SWEARING IN CEREMONY:

***Please note this change:* The ceremony with John Long, City Clerk, to swear in new members of the Somerville Commission for Persons With Disabilities will take place at the next meeting, AUGUST 16, 2005, at the Walnut Street Center, 6:30 – 8 pm.**

Minutes:

Present: Craig, Tom, William, Bonny, Dennis, Marty, and new: Julie K

1st business: Who will be sworn in as members?

According to the Massachusetts Laws, only 9 persons can be voting members. Our list names 10 persons. Since Marty P. was the last name on the list, he was not put on the list as a new Commission Member, even though he is a fully participating member of the meetings and business. It was decided that Bonny, as the Mayor-appointed City ADA Coordinator, will be a voting member, and Dennis Sullivan, our Alderman, will continue to come, but not be a voting member. (Thank you, Dennis!) We will see if Marty can be named as an Alternate member, and the same for Julie. **Craig will poll all current members to be sure everyone wishes to continue on the Commission, and speak with Janice De Ward, (Mayor's Office) to clarify these issues.**

The swearing-in ceremony, originally to take place at City Hall at 7 pm on August 11th, will instead take place at our next meeting, Tuesday, August 16th, 6:30 - 8 pm, at the Walnut Street Center. John Long, City Clerk, will attend the meeting to swear in new Members. Five to be sworn in, pending clarification: Bonny, Al, William, Eileen, and Jim...

2nd: Bonny reports that the next Community Access Monitor Training will take place OCTOBER 14 – 15th in Brookline. Cost is \$85, professional, and \$15 for individuals. Bonny will give us registration forms and all necessary information at our next meeting or as soon as available. Many of us intend to become Community Access Monitors.

3rd: Tom will present a citation to John O'Neill, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, at 2 pm, July 20th, for their consistent history of good work with disabled clients, especially for their help in investigating issues and responding with accurate information. Marty will take pictures and write a news story with Craig, for the Somerville. Journal and other possible papers.

4th: Dennis followed through on promise to check status of Joe's room inspection and reported back. The inspection will take place "when it is ready".

5th: Dennis has been looking for the parking situation regarding HP spaces occupied all day by HP vehicles in municipal parking lot, specifically in front of a pharmacy... The State law states that a person with a HP plate is allowed to park in the HP space all day. Dennis spoke to the new Parking Director, and he will attend our next meeting.

6th: Julie did a search of Commissions w/web addresses and Somerville was not on that. Bonny will look into that. Bonny notes that we are not yet listed on the ADA Coordinators web list either. Also, Bonny will update the notice regarding the Somerville Commission for Persons With Disabilities, which is posted in the front hall of City Hall, so that our Meetings will be posted accurately.

7th: Eileen has been researching resources to make websites accessible. Craig and Eileen will be meeting with Jim Halloran before our next meeting to begin to put up the Commissions' link on the City's website. [Note: The Commission's Education Committee had a meeting July 22th and Ei, Craig, Tom, Marty, and William conceived a detailed working outline of our Website/ City link at that meeting.]

8th: Bonny and Dennis continue to work on tracking down the City's Accessibility Plan. Dennis is committed to working on making all public buildings accessible but reports that the budget is not in place for this work at this time...

9th: Bonny followed through on Joe Keene memorial. We should speak with Kathleen C. and tell her more about Joe so that a memorial citation can be planned.

10th: Marty showed and gave us information about a free CD re: ADA Technical Assistance, from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Civil Rights Division.. Craig will order some for the Commission.

11th: William followed up on asking for the Education Committee to begin its work. Craig, William, Tom, Marty and Eileen will meet as Education Committee on July 22nd.

MEETING ENDED approximately 8 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Ei F. , posted August 2, 2005.